



## Illinois Inroads to Inclusion

By Lois Barnhart, Illinois Inclusion Officer

December 2011

### Illinois Inclusion Efforts

December seven, five members of the Illinois Inclusion Team met with 13 other state Inclusion Team representatives in Arlington, Virginia for a full day of Inclusion Team training provided by National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP) team. During this Leadership Institute, states shared strategies and discussed special projects they are involved in regarding Inclusion of People with Disabilities in their National Service Programs. The Illinois Team came away with three specific goals to initiate in the year ahead: conduct a survey of the team to promote discussion as to the level of involvement each team member intends to bring to the table; develop by-laws for the Team to function more efficiently; set up a network on book-it to accelerate and assist in communication amongst team members.

December eight and nine, our team members and others attended the 2011 Disability Symposium, which was held after the Leadership Institute in Virginia. Ebony Scott, a member of the Illinois Inclusion Team and Program Director of Public Allies, Chicago was asked by the NSIP team to do a joint presentation on strategies to support members and how to take intentional steps toward a service match leading to successful term completion. Ebony did a wonderful job representing Illinois and Public Allies!

We continue to work on the Inclusion Toolkit and will incorporate information from programs, as well as new insights gained from attending the Disability Symposium. We are on schedule to release the toolkit in 2012.

As we move into the holidays we often reflect back on the year past and envision the year ahead. Part of our Leadership Institute was just that: a reflection back on what the Inclusion Teams have accomplished and where we want to go. As we move into the new year I have renewed hope implemented in Illinois Service Programs across the state.

**I WISH YOU ALL**

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**MORE TO COME IN 2012!**

#### Illinois Disability Outreach

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##### LINKS OF INTEREST:

NSIP (National Service Inclusion Project)  
[www.serviceandinclusion.org](http://www.serviceandinclusion.org)  
Opportunities in Illinois  
[www.serve.illinois.gov](http://www.serve.illinois.gov)  
[www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)  
Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois  
[www.ccdionline.org](http://www.ccdionline.org)  
National Federation of the Blind in Illinois  
[www.nfbfillinois.org](http://www.nfbfillinois.org)  
Great Lakes ADA Center  
[www.adagreatlakes.org](http://www.adagreatlakes.org)  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
[www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org)  
Illinois Centers for Independent Living  
[www.incil.org/locations.asp](http://www.incil.org/locations.asp)  
DHS Vocational Rehab  
[www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29737](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29737)

